

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Ahlstrom Hollow

Proposal Number: 1410

DWR Region: Southern Region

Lead Agency: USFS

County: Garfield

Project Manager: Jake Schoppe

PM Phone: 4358656113

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 8/1/2009

Project Location: Paunsaugunt Unit, East Fork Sevier watershed

Project Description: 1000 acre Rx Underburn of Ponderosa and some PJ/Subalpine Fir. Aspen regeneration where applicable.

Description of Problem/Need: Description of problem/need: Much of the Ponderosa component on the Paunsaugunt unit has become encroached with PJ due to the lack of fire or fire suppression. Fire return intervals for this vegetation type vary from 5-15 years however much of the area has not been burned for over 100 years. The goal is to restore fire back into the stands, and improve the pine forest as well as brush (manzanita and bitterbrush) understory to improve mule deer summer habitat.

Objectives: Thin PJ and Sub-alpine fire in Ponderosa pine. Regenerate and encourage sprouting of bitterbrush through rx fire. Restore fire back into historic Ponderosa and mule deer summer range. Maintain open meadows and habitat for Utah Prairie dog, regenerate pockets of aspen through rx fire. Improve ground forage resources for mule deer and other ungulates in the resource area.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Project Relevance to the Wildlife Action Plan: Project will benefit several of the key habitat types focused on in the Wildlife Action Plan including Mountain shrub and aspen forest. Additionally, habitat will be provided for a variety of Tier I, II, and III species including Utah prairie dog, northern goshawk, Mexican spotted owl, three-toed woodpecker, various bats, mule deer, ground squirrels and misc. other species.

Project Relevance to other planning documents: This project meets the Dixie National Forest plan in that it provides improved habitat and water resources for Management Indicator Species (MIS) as well as a wide array of TES species as required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

Potential Risks: Catastrophic Wildfire resulting in stand and habitat loss. There is also risk of losing pockets of habitat if Rx fire is not controlled/managed.

Proposed Methods: Area is proposed for RX underburning up-to 1000 acres of identified 4727 acres. Some hand thinning of PJ and Ponderosa has occurred in isolated areas already. Rx burning is the proposed and preferred method.

Shapefile Name: S:/DWR/HPD-2010/GIS Shape Files/1410.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Fuel plots have already been established by USFS fuels survey crew and will be monitored pre and post burn. Additional monitoring would occur through annual classification of big game use in the area. Annual counts and monitoring occur on Utah prairie dog and their use in the area. Follow up monitoring occurs after every RX burn on the Dixie N.F. to evaluate ground cover, snags, and overall effectiveness. Seed is available if needed in areas where higher burn intensities are found. However no seeding is expected to be needed based upon past RX burn experiences in this area.

Grazing Management:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Utah Prairie-dog

Elk

Pronghorn

Rio Grande Wild Turkey

Monday, March 16, 2009 12:54:48 PM

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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	1000
Total	1000

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
USFS	\$36,700.00		\$36,700.00
Unfunded Balance	\$63,300.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$100,000.00		\$36,700.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Other	USFS funded 367 acres Rx burn @ \$100/acre	\$0.00	\$36,700.00
Other	633 acre RX burn @ \$100/acre	\$63,300.00	\$0.00
	Totals	\$63,300.00	\$36,700.00

Project Map:

